



U.S. Small Business Administration

# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

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## **SBA Opens Three Disaster Offices to Help Victims of Winter Storms in San Bernardino County**

**Sacramento, CA** - The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced today that it is opening three disaster offices in **Blue Jay, Big Bear Lake** and **San Bernardino** to assist victims in applying for low-interest disaster loans due to damage caused by the recent winter storms. On Tuesday, SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto declared Inyo, Kern, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties a disaster area due to damage caused by the severe storms, flooding, debris flows and mudslides that occurred between December 27, 2004 and January 11, 2005.

According to Alfred E. Judd, SBA Disaster Area Director, SBA's disaster declaration makes low-interest Federal disaster loans available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the storms.

"An SBA loan officer will be on hand at the following locations to issues loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Judd said. The offices will be open on the following days and times:

<b>Blue Jay</b>	<b>Big Bear Lake</b>	<b>San Bernardino</b>
<b>Lake Arrowhead Library</b>	<b>Big Bear Lake City Hall</b>	<b>San Bernardino Co. Gov. Ctr.</b>
<b>27235 Highway 189</b>	<b>39707 Big Bear Boulevard</b>	<b>385 North Arrowhead Ave.</b>
<b>Mondays &amp; Tuesdays</b>	<b>Wednesdays &amp; Thursdays</b>	<b>Fridays</b>
<b>10 am – 6 pm</b>	<b>9 am – 5 pm</b>	<b>8 am – 5 pm</b>
<b>starting February 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>starting March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>starting March 4<sup>th</sup></b>

According to Judd, disaster loans of up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

"Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. Additionally, Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million are also available to small businesses," Judd said.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA's disaster office may obtain information and loan applications by writing to SBA at P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841-9004, or by calling toll-free (800) 488-5323. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 735-1683.

Applications for property damage must be returned to SBA by **April 19, 2005**. Applications for economic injury must be returned by **November 18, 2005**.

*For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).*

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SBA Disaster Assistance Office - Area 4 — P.O. Box 419004 — Sacramento, CA 95841